

FRATT HOUSE
RACINE, WISCONSIN

Racine Co.

H.A.B.S. No Wis 124

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• PHOTOGRAPHS •

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

DISTRICT No 28

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Building Survey
Alexander C. Guth • District Officer
1249 North Franklin Place, Milwaukee, Wis.

FRATT HOUSE
Racine, Racine County, Wisconsin.

Owner and Custodian. The North Shore Line (Railroad). Loaned to Young Man's Christian Association.

Date of Erection. 1845-1851

Architect. Unknown.

Builder. Ezra Weed.

Present Condition. Kitchen wing and some rooms reconstructed after fire of 1867. Poor preservation.

Number of Stories. Two

Materials of Construction. Brick; cut stone lintels.

Other Existing Records. None known.

Additional Data. Little indeed may be written about this etately old mansion. The house now stands in the midst of a busy local business section of the city of Racine, Wisconsin. The property is in the right of way of the North Shore line. When it was erected the surrounding country-side was all farmlands. So it may be surmised that the house was erected as a farm house. The pioneer, who laid claim to many hundreds of acres of the surrounding country all of which is part of the city of Racine today, was one named Ezra Weed. He settled there in the early 40's and started the erection of the house in 1845. In 1851 he sold it to Nichalaue D. Fratt in whose fsmily it was destined to remain for upwards of 50 years. In 1867 a disaetroue fire gutted the kitchen wing and also ruined some of the larger of the roome. The preeent kitchen wing was remodelled and added to at that time.

The foregoing historical data was obtained from Mrs. Clara (Fratt) Griffith, who was born in the house in 1853, and who lived there for 20 years.

The entrance is especially noteworthy. It is like the rest of the building, very severe, but refined and interesting. Rarely does one find such interesting and beautiful trim at window openings as are to be seen in the main rooms of this house. The black walnut staircase is another point of unusual interest. Attention is called to the simple, straight-forward plan of the first story.

This structure is owned today (1935) by the North Shore Line. They have loaned it to the local Young Men's Christian Association which organization is using it as a branch for its activities.

ALEXANDER C. GUTH
District Officer

(Revised at HABS Headquarters, Sept. 6, 1935.)

Received 1936, H.C.F.